

Championship. With their win at the Superdome in New Orleans on December 11, 2010, the team joins the level of elite high school football teams in the State. Their win is a source of pride for the students, faculty, and alumni of Acadiana High School, as well as of the people of Lafayette.

This year's squad overcame many hardships this season on their way to the Superdome. The strength, tenacity and determination of the players and coaches to overcome adversity proves that they indeed deserve to be called "champions."

After compiling a 6–4 record in the regular season, the Rams cruised through the playoffs, recording big wins on their drive to New Orleans. The team defeated some of the strongest programs from across Louisiana: East St. John by a score of 56–6; Zachary, 49–7; St. Paul, 41–20; and St. Thomas More in the State semifinals by a score of 31–0.

In the State championship game, the Rams played one of the top teams in the State, the West Monroe Rebels, a team which had won 29 straight games and was the defending State champion. In one of the best high school games of the year, the Rams played their hearts out and emerged victorious with a 21–14 victory over the Rebels.

This team represents the strength, determination, and resilience of the people of Acadiana. I want to commend head coach Ted Davidson for his leadership through the highs and lows of this season, and applaud him and his fellow coaches for keeping the team focused and determined to achieve their goal of a State championship.

Very few teams have won more than one State championship in the history of the Louisiana High School Athletic Association, and with this team's win this year, Acadiana High School joins those select few Louisiana high school football programs. For overcoming adversity early in the season and delivering resounding wins throughout the post season, I congratulate the 2010 Acadiana High School Wreckin' Rams football team for their victory in the 5A State Championship.

IN MEMORY OF TIM RUSSERT

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 17, 2010

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, throughout my time in Congress it has been my privilege to meet many of the people involved in running this great institution. Albert Caswell, who works with the Capitol Visitor's Center to give tours for the Wounded Warriors and Make a Wish organizations, is one of those people.

I rise today to ask that a poem written by Mr. Caswell, honoring one of Buffalo's greatest sons, Tim Russert, be added to the official record.

RUSSERT

All on the canvass of our lives . . .
What, are of our gifts as realized?
That we so paint all in our lives . . .
That, which so shows all of us while in our times . . .
As when we are gone, that which so surely shines!
Russ . . . Art . . . A Man of Faith, Who Thou Art!
A Thing of Beauty!

A Truly Great Man, Full of Heart!
A Fine . . . Fine . . . Fine Kind Work of Art!
All in what you have painted, Tim . . .
All in your life's part . . .
Oh yes, in your lifetime Tim . . . you so stood apart!
From all the rest!
First and foremost, it was your love of family, playing The Greatest Part!
Whether, it was Big Russ . . . Like . . . or that lovely wife Maureen . . .
As you so showed us all, life's greatest theme . . .
As your life's Mission, as such . . .
All in your life's ministry, all in your decisions as bestowed upon us . . .
To drink from that cup of life, not sip . . . or think twice . . .
To live each new day full, and on your way and burn bright!
A Man, from humble means . . .
Who, never forgot from where he had come, who inspired all . . . this one!
But to live, That Great American Dream . . .
As through your choices, and your most warm inner voices . . .
Where character, faith, and hard work so convened!
A poster child, with that warm smile . . .
As all the while, of what America really means!
As all in your life was seen . . .
God, Faith, Family, and our Country 'Tis of Thee . . .
As you wore them all upon your sleeve . . .
When, we Met The Press . . .
In Your Search For the Truth . . .
All in you Tim, we so met the very best!
For in your short, but great lifetime . . .
This your nation, you would bless!
For politics was your life . . .
And now, You and Murrow . . . share the same light!
And in this your world of gotcha . . .
No man of honor, has ever burned more bright!
Because, all our leaders knew there be a fight . . .
But, it would be an honest and fair . . . what was right!
For it was your Great Love of Life . . .
Go Buffalo! Go Bills!
That cries out to all of us this sad night!
To remind us, in what we saw . . . To carry a smile!
To love God, Country, Work and Family . . . with all your might!
To Be The Best, in all you do!
To go for it!
To help your friends, to be true!
And that was but Tim, that was but you!
To have a heart of a child, to ever carry it and wear a warm smile!
All in your life's quests, as viewed . . . A Missionary Man . . .
Who's Life of Faith,
painted a masterpiece far out across this great land to view!
A Mission, that our Lord had put you upon this earth to do!

IN PRAISE OF THE TRANS-ATLANTIC LEGISLATORS' DIALOGUE MEETING HELD IN SAN FRANCISCO, CA

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 17, 2010

Mr. BERMAN. Madam Speaker, from December 3 to 5, a delegation of Members of the House met with a delegation of Members of the European Parliament for the 69th session

of the Transatlantic Legislators' Dialogue. The TLD is the principal inter-parliamentary organization to foster discussion between U.S. and European Union legislators. Following my remarks is the Joint Statement issued by the TLD chairs and vice-chairs summarizing the results of this meeting.

A highlight of this meeting was the participation by the Foreign Minister of Pakistan, His Excellency Shah Mehmood Qureshi, who gave an enlightening presentation on current issues in Pakistan and the South Asia region. His remarks stimulated a lively discussion.

For the past four years, the TLD Congressional delegation has been ably chaired by our colleague, the gentlelady from Nevada, Ms. SHELLEY BERKLEY. Indeed, she has been the driving force in making the TLD an effective mechanism to strengthen the working relationship between the Congress and the European Parliament. In recognition of her energetic commitment to trans-Atlantic diplomacy, the participants honored her at this meeting. As Chairman of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, I join them in commending Ms. BERKLEY for her outstanding leadership of the Transatlantic Legislators' Dialogue.

TRANSATLANTIC LEGISLATORS' DIALOGUE, FROM THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS, JOINT STATEMENT

Shelley Berkley, Chairwoman, United States Congress Delegation

Cliff Stearns, Vice Chairman, United States Congress Delegation

Jim Costa, Vice Chairman, United States Congress Delegation

Elmar Brok, MEP, Chairman, European Parliament Delegation

Sarah Ludford, MEP, Vice Chairwoman, European Parliament Delegation

Niki Tzavela, MEP, Vice Chairwoman, European Parliament Delegation

We, the Members of the European Parliament and the United States House of Representatives, held our 69th Interparliamentary meeting (Transatlantic Legislators' Dialogue) in San Francisco, California, from 3–5 December 2010.

Building on the joint statement issued following our last meeting in Madrid on 3–6 June 2010 we reasserted the importance of regular dialogue on political, social, security, economic and environmental challenges that affect all of our citizens. We agreed to report back to our parent bodies on the content and outcome of our discussions in San Francisco, in particular in the areas where joint efforts are likely to produce positive outcomes.

We discussed issues ranging from the global financial situation and trade, to Iran, Iraq, Afghanistan and Pakistan and climate change. We were briefed on data sharing and privacy issues by Mary Ellen Callahan from the Department of Homeland Security and met with the Foreign Minister of Pakistan, His Excellency Shah Mehmood Qureshi.

Our delegations noted that the U.S. and EU must be aware of long-term trends and challenges including the economical and political rise of Asia, cooperation with Latin America, and seek answers to issues like climate change and cybersecurity. In this context, we discussed inviting a NATO representative to the next TLD meeting.

The European Parliament Delegation expressed its gratitude to the U.S. for its vote in support of a strengthened EU presence in the United Nations General Assembly.

We noted the statement by the leaders of the U.S. and the EU giving a central role to